

## What are the Advantages of Mediation?

- Free service
- Confidential
- Parties decide outcome
- Attorneys not required
- Conferences held day or evening
- 70% reach resolution

## TESTIMONIALS

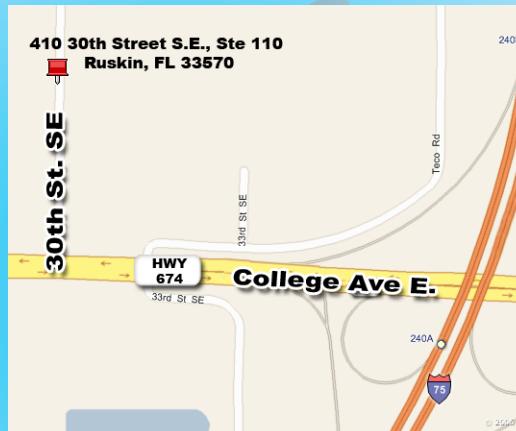
"Job well done. Would recommend to a friend."

"We appreciate the time given to this long-standing issue."



Persons with disabilities needing special accommodation to participate in mediation should contact our office 48 hours prior to the mediation conference.

For Further Information Contact  
Southshore Community Justice Center  
[www.fljud13.org/courtprograms.aspx](http://www.fljud13.org/courtprograms.aspx)  
(813) 672-7442  
[southshorejusticecen@fljud13.org](mailto:southshorejusticecen@fljud13.org)



The Southshore Community Justice Center is located within the Southshore Regional Service Center  
410 30th Street S.E., Suite 110  
Ruskin, FL 33570  
Off I-75 at College Ave. (Hwy 674)



The Southshore Community Justice Center is an outreach program of Mediation & Diversion Services funded by Hillsborough County and the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit and supported by the community it serves.



## Community Mediation Program

Serving South Hillsborough County

*"Solving Problems Outside of Court"*

Southshore Regional Service Center  
410 30th Street S.E., Suite 110  
Ruskin, FL 33570



The Southshore Community Justice Center offers a forum for resolving conflicts FREE of charge to the participants. Mediation allows the parties to discuss the issues informally. An impartial third person, the mediator, assists in exploring solutions to the problem. The parties determine the outcome of the conference.

### **What occurs during a mediation conference?**

At the start of the mediation conference, the mediator explains the process. Each party has an opportunity to state their side of the dispute. Information obtained during the process is confidential pursuant to Florida Statutes 44.401. Agreements reached are written, signed and copies provided to all parties.

### **Is the Community Mediation the same as going to court?**

No. Mediation is a voluntary process that serves as a complement to the court system. Parties may file a case in court should the matter not be resolved in Mediation.

### **What types of complaints can be filed?**

A wide variety of community complaints can be addressed including some misdemeanor criminal matters. Cases not appropriate for mediation may be referred to another agency or to the court.

#### **Typical Complaints**

- Animal Nuisance
- Balances Owed
- Consumer Issues
- Contract Disputes
- Landlord/Tenant (no evictions)
- Unpaid Wages
- Neighborhood Disputes
- Family Conflicts
- Employee/Employer
- Homeowner/HOA
- Unsatisfactory Services

### **What are the procedures for filing?**

Individuals or businesses wishing to request a mediation conference may obtain an intake form by coming in or calling the office at (813) 672-7442 or by printing an intake form from our web page located under forms. The name, address, and telephone number of the parties involved are needed when mediation is requested. A brief statement is obtained from the individual requesting the conference. Details are not discussed until the conference.

### **What happens if an agreement is not reached?**

Approximately 70% of conferences reach a resolution. Should an agreement not be reached, the matter can be referred to an agency or to the court.

### **Who are the mediators?**

The mediators for the Southshore Community Justice Center are members of the community who are trained in resolving conflicts. They give generously of their time to help their community. **For information about volunteer opportunities, contact the office at (813) 672-7442.**